



Environment
Agency

Recent developments on the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Strategy

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Our Intention

SMP Policies

Adopted by Local Authorities

EA Flood Risk Strategy

- Maintain momentum
- Add detail eg lines on maps
- When we expect to act
- Start long process of adapting to climate change

General points on consultation

- ➔ Reached more people, more responses than SMP
- ➔ “I didn’t realise it meant that”
- ➔ Strategic decision-making v. localism
- ➔ Providing time to adapt can give rise to “blight”
- ➔ Who *really* decides what will happen in future decades



Contentious subjects (realigning defences)

➔ Recreation of inter-tidal habitat

- ➔ Why? Habitats Regulations (and other regulations)
- ➔ How are sites selected? Economics, areas relatively free of infrastructure
- ➔ How certain are we of the science?

➔ Economic considerations

- ➔ Prioritisation of national funding is crucial
- ➔ Options are best value, not necessarily the cheapest



Food Security/Food Production

Agriculture Foresight Report : >30% wastage in system

Defra Business Plan May 2011: Priorities are resilience of the food supply chain, avoiding habitat degradation, maintaining biodiversity

Food production is not a reason for avoiding our obligations to maintain the environment

Work prompted by the consultation responses

- ➔ Engagement with MPs and the Minister on difficult issues
- ➔ Better communications links set up with those most affected
- ➔ Looking closer at habitat losses caused by flood defences
- ➔ Consider a range of sea level rise predictions, generally being less precautionary

Forward look

- ➡ Re-consultation on amendments to strategy around the end of 2011
- ➡ No change expected in Hold-the-line zones
- ➡ Being less specific on realignment of defences
- ➡ Major realignments only with agreement of the majority of landowners

Heading

➔ Bullet point

➔ Sub point